

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A proton conductor comprising a base material, an acidic substance and a basic substance,

wherein the acidic substance has protons, [[:]]

at least part of the protons are dissociated by the basic substance, [[:]]

~~at least one of the acidic substance and the basic substance is immobilized on a surface of the base material; and~~

the base material has no electron conductivity,

the base material comprises particles on which the acidic substance or the basic substance is immobilized,

the particles are dispersed in the acidic substance or the basic substance, and

when the acidic substance is immobilized on the particles, the particles are dispersed in the basic substance, and when the basic substance is immobilized on the particles, the particles are dispersed in the acidic substance.

15. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 14, wherein at least part of the at least one of the acidic substance and the basic substance is a polymer, and the base material is retained in a matrix of the polymer.

16. (Previously presented) A proton conductor comprising a particulate base material having an acidic substance immobilized on a surface thereof, and a particulate base material having a basic substance immobilized on a surface thereof,

wherein the acidic substance has protons; and

at least part of the protons are dissociated by the basic substance.

17. (Previously presented) A proton conductor comprising a base material, an acidic substance and a basic substance,

wherein the acidic substance has protons;

at least part of the protons are dissociated by the basic substance; and

the base material is a porous body having pores or through-holes, and one of the acidic substance and the basic substance is immobilized on an inner wall of the pores or the through-holes of the porous body to form a first layer, and the other of the acidic substance and the basic substance is immobilized on the first layer by acid-base bond to form a second layer.

18. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 17, wherein the at least one of the acidic substance and the basic substance is an organic compound having a hydrophilic part and a hydrophobic part in the molecule.

19. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 18, wherein the organic compound forms a built-up film in the pores or through-holes.

20. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 17, further comprising a non-electron conductive substance, wherein the non-electron conductive substance clogs at least part of the pores.

21. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 17, wherein the porous body has at least the through-holes.

22. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 16, wherein the base material is composed of an inorganic substance.

23. (Previously presented) An electrolyte membrane comprising the proton conductor according to claim 16.

24. (Previously presented) An electrode comprising the proton conductor according to claim 16.

25. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte membrane interposed therebetween, wherein the electrolyte membrane is the electrolyte membrane according to claim 23.

26. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte membrane interposed therebetween, wherein at least one of the anode and the cathode is the electrode according to claim 24.

27. (Previously presented) The proton conductor according to claim 17, wherein the base material is composed of an inorganic substance.

28. (Previously presented) An electrolyte membrane comprising the proton conductor according to claim 17.

29. (Previously presented) An electrode comprising the proton conductor according to claim 17.

30. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte membrane interposed therebetween, wherein the electrolyte membrane is the electrolyte membrane according to claim 28.

31. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte membrane interposed therebetween, wherein at least one of the anode and the cathode is the electrode according to claim 29.